

PON-12-502 Questions and Answers

A. Applicant Eligibility Requirements:

1. Who is eligible to apply for funding under this Program Opportunity Notice (PON)?

Answer: Refer to pages 5-7 of the PON manual for a description of eligible Applicants for each research area, under the “Eligible Applicants” heading.

2. Are out-of-state companies eligible for funding?

Answer: Out-of-state companies may not receive over 40% of the total PIER funding. The lead Applicant or a subcontractor must be a California-Based Entity (CBE) or government entity in California, at least 60% of the PIER funding must be awarded to eligible CBEs and/or government entities in California, and at least 60% of the PIER funding must be spent in California. Please see the discussion of CBEs, government entities in California and the California economic investment requirement in the “Eligible Applicants” section of the PON manual.

3. Is there any restriction on the types of demonstration projects eligible for funding?

Answer: Early stage exploratory projects are not eligible for demonstration project funding. Demonstration projects should involve the demonstration and integration of multiple energy technologies, focused on enabling renewable electricity generation.

4. Are there any limitations on where a project can be located?

Answer: Proposed demonstration sites must be located in a California electric Investor-Owned Utility (IOU) service territory.

5. Are Federal labs such as the Lawrence Berkeley National Lab eligible to apply as the lead organization for the PON-12-502 solicitation?

Answer: Yes.

6. Is an independent grammar school eligible for the Community-Scale Renewable Energy Integration Demonstration grant to cover solar PV and energy efficiency? As an independent school it is not in a school district. However, there are hundreds of students and it has adopted an environmental stewardship mission that solar PV would fit perfectly into.

Answer: Yes, as long as the proposal advances science and technology.

7. Are previous awardees of Energy Commission grant funding eligible to apply? Is there any scoring disadvantage for them?

Answer: Previous awardees of CEC grants are eligible to apply. However, they cannot submit the same scope of work, and are encouraged to propose new project or build on the previously completed work. There will be no scoring advantage or disadvantage for previous awardees.

8. Regarding eligible applicants for Research Area 1, Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Demonstration, can CEC funds be used to support project development, equipment and installation costs for an energy system that will be installed and operated on Tribally-owned land of a Federally-recognized Native American Tribe? The Tribe is located in California and is a customer of the local investor-owned utility, Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

Answer: Yes.

9. We are looking at an airport application, which is a huge energy user and significant opportunity for clean energy. The airport is its own utility but located within PG&E territory. Would this application be eligible for the program or is it excluded on the basis of being a “publicly owned utility” and outside the service territory?

Answer: Yes, it is eligible. The project demonstration site must be within an investor-owned utility service territory. If the demonstration site is located in a California investor-owned utility service area, but purchases its power from someone else, the project is still eligible. The IOU requirement is applicable because the funds for this solicitation come from ratepayers in investor-owned utility service areas

10. Is a non-profit that is empowered or acting on behalf of a community or municipality eligible to apply as the prime recipient under research areas 1 and 2?

Answer: Yes.

11. Our West Village area is served by PG&E, but our central campus uses power from WAPA. Our campus is currently evaluating if installing a large solar farm (+/-7 MW) on campus would be economically feasible. This solar farm will interconnect to a campus distribution system served by this WAPA power. We are also implementing an aggressive energy efficiency/ energy conservation project in the buildings connected to the same system (throughout campus, not necessary near the solar farm area). Based on the above limitations, would we be eligible to participate in this solicitation?

Answer: West Village is located in PG&E service territory and is eligible to apply for this solicitation. Refer to the answer to question 9 for more information.

12. My company is developing an energy storage system, but we are still in the R&D phase. We expect to roll out our first units in early 2014. Would we be eligible to apply to this grant?

Answer: You are eligible to submit an application for the Breakthrough Community-Scale Renewable Energy Technology Development research area, as long as all other solicitation requirements are met.

13. The Port of Oakland acts as a municipal utility for the airport and portions of the seaport. Other areas controlled by the Port are served by Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E). Can we make a proposal for a project that will be located in the area that is served by PG&E?

Answer: Yes.

14. Is a corporate entity that is authorized by a city to collect food waste on city property that is zoned for industrial use eligible for funding?

Answer: Yes, as long as the main focus of the proposal is on renewable electricity generation.

15. What are the requirements for a school district?

Answer: There are no special requirements for a school district beyond those that are general to the entire solicitation.

16. Are non-profits eligible to be the lead Applicant?

Answer: Yes.

17. If awarded this cycle, are we less likely or ineligible for future funding cycles in this grant category or others available through the CEC, post project completion, March 31, 2015? *I ask this if there is a chance we'd want to build on the success of the project and would have other stakeholders interested that could pony up new matching funds (i.e. taking on, not a new project, but a phase 2 of a successful model)*

Answer: If funding is awarded for a proposal submitted under this PON, the same scope of work cannot be funded under future Energy Commission funding opportunities, either in this grant category or in others.

18. I would like to get an indication from you if our concepts fit into your criteria for a fundable grant. Here are brief summaries for two grant areas:

Solar Electric Vehicle and Charger Demonstration in Marin and Sonoma

Our demonstration will be used to address Solar EV charger costs, locations and use barriers through the use of solar energy, energy efficiency, marketing and outreach. Strategic partners will be chosen to test new applications in conjunction with EV charging stations through demonstration installations in both counties.

Specific project components will include application of technology and test installation area to measure impact on constrained T&D lines in TOU periods, tying partners together to promote use of EV's and charging stations through the use of solar powered EV stations strategically placed at locations such as airports, multiple residences, public stations, office parks and smart train locations. EV Charging station cost study to quantify cost of the installation of solar EV charging stations at designated locations.

Group Build

Research and Implementation of a group build concept for integration of large PV systems and enabling technologies of energy efficiency and electric vehicle charging stations. Primary focus would be on using local resources, building program for local vendors to collaborate so that they could qualify for larger jobs which usually require non-local firms to complete, and the reduction of greenhouse gasses which would be driven by increased local installations by a local workforce and in response to Sonoma Clean Power and Marin Energy Authorities need for more utility scale, feed-in-tariff (FIT) solar.

The proposed solutions would be to find the physical sites most suitable for these technologies (PV, EE and EVCS) as a package, using local county resources to install them wherever possible. In addition, we would research organizational structures to implement large scale PV and EE through a group build structure which would bring vendors together to be vetted members, receive professional training which would be aggregated on a detailed website.

Answer: Please see questions and answers number 24, 34, and 45.

B. Project Eligibility Requirements:

18. Is funding for biofuels eligible under this solicitation?

Answer: The primary focus of proposals under this solicitation should be on strategies and technologies for renewable electricity generation. Funding for biofuels is eligible only if it is considered as a complementary “enabling technology” to increase the value of renewable electricity generation. The Energy Commission has other funding opportunities available for biofuels projects, including the Alternative and Renewable Fuel and Vehicle Technology (ARFVT) Program. More information on the ARFVT Program can be found at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/altfuels/>.

19. Are projects aimed at employing genetic engineering of microorganisms considered responsive to the solicitation?

Answer: Each proposal must have a direct link to energy generation. Engineering microorganisms on its own is not a valid research topic for the proposal. Applying these microorganisms in a pilot test for energy generation may be eligible, as long as the proposal can meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and all other requirements of the solicitation.

20. Can a prime applicant or any organization submit two proposals under the same or different research areas?

Answer: Applicants can submit more than one proposal, as long as each proposal is for a distinct project, with no overlap. Also, each application can address only one research area. An applicant can submit separate applications for each research area as long as each includes a distinct scope of work.

21. Our idea is to use the movement of large vessels that rise and fall with the incoming and outgoing tides and attach a gearing system (located on a stationary dock or pier) to turn that kinetic energy into electricity. Our proof of concept gave us remarkable results and we think this idea can be scaled up to utility levels. Would this grant cover the construction of a prototype?

Answer: We cannot provide specific recommendations about your technology. However, you may apply for the Breakthrough Community-Scale Renewable energy Technology Development category. An alternate will be to apply to the Energy Commission’s Energy Innovations Small Grant Program (EISG). The information about this program is available at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/innovations/index.html>.

22. In Research Area B, Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Exploration, is there a requirement or an expectation that there is an existing installation to which the strategy, model, or tool being developed will be applied? Or can a model be developed for a community that has no existing renewable energy implementation?

Answer: The strategy, model, or tool being developed can be applied to an existing installation or can be applied to a community that has no existing renewable energy implementation.

23. Given the two example reports (i.e., Sonoma community and Smart Grid integration) listed in the solicitation, is the Energy Commission looking for community-wide (i.e., cross-sector, multiple party) types of proposals for the Community Scale Demonstration Project and Community Scale Integration grant categories? Or will single-entity proposals that still have a community scale focus receive similar rankings for those two categories?

Answer: Both community-wide multiple party proposals and a single entity with a community scale focus are eligible to apply. Strength and diversity of the project team, as well as local stakeholder support, will be evaluated in the technical scoring criteria

24. Would a potential project include the purchase of a battery storage system linked to an existing renewable energy source to permit a municipal facility to continue to operate in the event of a power outage?

Answer: Not as described. The proposed scope of work must include research, development, and demonstration to advanced science and technology for renewable electricity generation. Demonstration projects must include new technologies and/or unique applications to advance existing technologies.

25. Regarding the Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Demonstration research area, are there prescribed uses of the award? More specifically, can the award be used to fund early design and optimization or is it intended only for final design and implementation?

Answer: Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Demonstration scope is more suitable for the final design and implementation of a specific project. The early design and optimization is more suitable for the research area "Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Exploration.

26. We intend to propose a community renewable energy and enabling technology integration project at a national laboratory campus in California, The site has already passed NEPA review earlier in 2012 for the installation and operation of renewable energy generation, scientific sensors, balance of systems, and enabling technologies. Is the NEPA environmental review sufficient for the purpose of PON-12-502? If a conversation regarding this is required, what is the process?

Answer: The project must meet California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) requirements and the applicant must obtain any required permits prior to beginning the project. In addition, the project must be completed by the agreement termination

date of March 31, 2015. This date cannot be extended, due to the short time frame available to spend PIER funding.

27. PON-12-502 explicitly includes transportation elements, as shown on pages 3, 7 and 24 of the PON manual. Are electric vehicle chargers and electric vehicles acceptable for funding in a renewable energy integration demonstration project?

Answer: Electric vehicle chargers can be funded as an “enabling technology,” but the primary focus of proposals must be on renewable electricity generation.

28. Does an exploration project need to be tied to a specific community, or is the development of a general tool eligible?

Answer: Proposals need to show that developed tools are applicable to a specific community and have the potential to be replicated throughout California.

29. The terms “shovel ready”, “research and development (R&D)”, and “replicable” seem to be competing goals for a 2-year time frame. How can applicants be expected to achieve all of these goals in such a short time frame?

Answer: This accelerated timeline is due to the short time frame available to spend PIER funding. Therefore, the work scope should be limited to achieve stated goals.

30. How important is demonstration versus research and development?

Answer: With a potential up to \$1.75 million per project, the Energy Commission expects advancement of research and development for technology or applications, as part of the proposal.

31. How can a demo that is shovel-ready at community scale not be demonstration rather than R&D? How can we do a demonstration in two years that includes significant R&D?

Answer: The demonstration research area includes systems-level demonstrations that evaluate combinations of complementary energy technologies, and that can involve developments or applications that have not yet been demonstrated at the community level.

32. Does the 10 MW scale limit apply to each individual project in a bundle need or can the aggregated capacity be more than 10 MW?

Answer: The 10 MW capacity limit applies to each individual project, and the total aggregated capacity of a community can be greater.

33. Can a project developer or other organization be the Applicant with military base as a host site?

Answer: Yes, as long as there is a letter of commitment included from the military base and all solicitation requirements are met.

34. Can the project be something that was demonstrated elsewhere but not in this specific community?

Answer: Applications should describe how they advance science and technology. For an emerging or existing technology, the applicant can demonstrate how it can be integrated with other technologies to take advantage of the target community's locally available renewable resources for electricity generation.

35. Can the proposal concern an existing site if we are enhancing it with a newer approach?

Answer: Applications should include unique scopes of work that advance science and technology. New technologies and approaches applied to an existing site are eligible for funding.

36. For demonstration projects, are you looking for new technologies? How new is new?

Answer: The proposed technologies do not have to be brand new, but can include existing technologies and configurations that are customized for a new application or modified with new components.

37. Does the requirement for one renewable resource and one enabling technology apply to both research areas 1 and 2?

Answer: Yes.

38. Are single family homes eligible for community scale demonstration funding?

Answer: Yes, if it is a cluster of single family homes in a community development. Multi-family homes are also eligible as demonstration sites.

39. For a low- income multi-family housing builder, can upgrades be covered by the grant?

Answer: See response to Question Number 99.

40. Does the renewable energy system have to connect to the distribution system or does it have to be grid connected? Is net metering OK?

Answer: Demonstration projects must be located in a community within IOU service territory. For purposes of the PON, communities should be geographically defined. Net metering is okay within this context, if demonstrated at scales sufficient to meet the definition of community scale on page 10 of the PON manual

41. Is a project eligible if it involves the completion of a feasibility study, market analyses, and/or other related research, strategies, or models exploring the development of a Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) program as a mechanism to increase local, secure and reliable renewable energy generation, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, create jobs, and/or provide other community benefits?

Answer: This solicitation is focused on the advancement of science and technology through utilization of local renewable energy resources. It is not focused on encouraging or developing a specific market model.

42. Can a single proposal be submitted for a project which includes both exploration and demonstration research components, or must these components be submitted as two distinct proposals? For instance, would a project which included both (1) **exploration** components—such as feasibility studies, market analyses, grid interconnection studies, action plans, strategies, models and/or tool developments, as well as (2) **demonstration** component(s), such as an installation of a landfill gas to energy, landfill gas to compressed natural gas, solar system or wind system, be considered an eligible project? Under which research area should such a project be submitted?

Answer: Each proposal must be for a unique scope of work that has not been previously funded by the Energy Commission or other sources. Proposals must be specifically targeted at either the exploration or demonstration research area, and must meet the guidelines. They will be reviewed in accordance with the scoring criteria of the specific targeted research area.

43. For Eligible Enabling Technologies: instead of fuel cells, can we use a Flex Power Station: <http://www.flexenergy.com/technology/flex-powerstation>? It's super-clean power generation with the benefit of accepting poor quality biogas.

Answer: Yes, other distributed energy resources are eligible for inclusion in the demonstration research category as long as the primary focus of the proposal is on renewable electricity generation.

44. If the applicant already has a target renewable resource (Biogas) can they apply for the grant to ONLY integrate the Eligible Enabling Technology? In other words, apply for a grant for the Enabling Technology but not the Renewable Resource since they already have the resource?

Answer: Proposals should include at least one renewable electricity resource AND at least one enabling technology, as indicated on page 9 of the PON manual.

45. The California Air Resources Board is interested in funding for programs where community groups and nonprofits can hold workshops and educational events on air quality issues, the environment, and energy efficiency. Does this solicitation provide funding for such outreach programs?

Answer: This solicitation is not intended for outreach and/or educational programs. Within the exploration research category, there may be a small percentage of funds devoted to outreach to include stakeholder involvement and transparency in assembling local renewable energy development plans.

46. Can you clarify the distinction between the Integration Demonstration and Integration Exploration research areas? Can both be assessment reports? Is one more of a policy analysis with recommendations to facilitate development of community-scale localized renewable energy systems? While the other one is a technical assessment of renewable projects with trade-offs between all options (similar to an integrated resource plan)? If so, which is which?

Answer: The exploration research category is focused on developing the tools and models necessary to plan and evaluate renewable development portfolios and scenarios. The demonstration research category should include a hardware demonstration aspect, involving multiple complementary components and technologies to advance science and technology and enable increased levels of renewable electricity generation.

47. What are the CEC's definitions of "demonstration" and "achieve reliance" for research area A (Integration Demonstration)? Does this mean that a project needs to be in the ground/ equipment needs to be installed? Do we actually have to have a community getting greater than 50% of its electricity from renewables by the end of the grant period (March 2015), or would having a plan to achieve this be a sufficient outcome by the end of the grant period?

Answer: Proposals under the demonstration research category should include the demonstration of hardware and equipment in order to make progress toward local renewable energy development goals and provide lessons learned for future efforts in the community or elsewhere. It is not a requirement that greater than 50% of the community's electricity is provided by renewables by the end of the project term.

48. What is the CEC's definition of "cost-effective" for research area A, Integration Demonstration (as used on page 7 of the PON manual)?

Answer: The Energy Commission leaves it to the Applicant to justify what "cost-effective" means in the context of their Application. The cost-effectiveness of the proposals will be evaluated as part of the technical scoring criteria.

49. We are currently working under a cooperative agreement with the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) to develop an anaerobic digester system in which autoclaved solid waste is converted to biomethane, which can serve as feedstock for processing biofuels. The next phase is putting systems in place that will further process the biomethane into electricity or transportation fuel to run our facilities and equipment. My questions are: 1) Would we be eligible for this funding opportunity? 2) If eligible,

which of the three research areas would the project fall under? and 3) Must the project produce electricity to be eligible?

Answer: Eligible applications for all three research categories must include a renewable electricity generation element, and at least one “enabling technology” to increase the value of electricity generated from this renewable resource. Demonstration projects should involve hardware in the ground, while exploration projects should involve the development of tools and methods to enable localized renewable energy development.

50. On page 9 of PON-12-502, “Community Scale” power is defined to be between 100 kW and 10 MW, in reference to “Breakthrough Community-Scale Renewable Energy Technology Development” (Eligible Projects, Section C). Is the 100 kW-10 MW power limit also a requirement for “Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Demonstration” (Eligible Projects, Section A) and/or “Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Exploration” (Eligible Projects, Section B)?

Answer: The power capacity bounds discussed in the PON manual are meant to serve as guidelines for all three research areas.

51. To what extent must renewable energy integration demonstration projects be community driven, as opposed to an innovative and high value solution to a site with renewable generation and an enabling technology that charts a path to solving major problems with renewable? For instance, must a hybrid renewable energy and energy storage project with an advanced solution at an adequate site be proposed or championed by a surrounding "community", or simply maintain good relations and positive support with relevant stakeholders? How broad is the definition of community for this PON?

Answer: For purposes of this solicitation, the definition of community is left fairly broad, so as to encourage proposals from a broad variety of stakeholders. It is up to the Applicant to include in the project narrative a justification for why the proposed community is a good fit for the research category being addressed. The level of local stakeholder support will be evaluated as a part of the technical scoring criteria.

52. In relation to research area A, Community Scale Renewable Energy Integration Demonstration, can a large industrial entity count as an established business park or industrial zone? What if this entity has multiple distributed locations with energy needs?

Answer: In the context of this solicitation, the proposed community should be regionally-defined to a specific location. Large industrial entities are eligible for funding, provided all other solicitation guidelines are met.

53. Are storage technologies that are not yet commercially available (but will soon be made available) acceptable to use as enabling technologies?

Answer: Yes, emerging energy technologies are eligible as an 'enabling technology'. It is the intent of the solicitation that demonstration projects should advance the state-of-the-art for renewable energy.

54. Will projects that are located in a region with adequate electric capacity for the proposed project be favored, or is line capacity not taken into account?

Answer: Line capacity is not a primary consideration in the scoring of Applications; however, it is up to the Applicant to describe the unique attributes and benefits of the proposed project.

55. Can you please clarify what "bench-scale" means? "Eligible technologies should have already been demonstrated at bench-scale (small laboratory demonstrations) and ready to move on to pilot-scale testing." (p.11) Say it's a photovoltaic device, would multi-meter readings documented by the company be sufficient?

Answer: For purposes of this solicitation, bench-scale means a sub-scale working prototype has been developed and demonstrated, but it has not yet been developed to full scale and has not been shown to be economically viable at scale.

56. Does design of products for enabling technologies and renewable integration fall within the scope of this PON? I am speaking of a community with recent installations of renewable resources. However, the planning and the instrumentation for optimized use of renewable resources still needs to be performed.

Answer: The design of advanced products for renewable integration is eligible for this solicitation under research area 3, Breakthrough Renewable Energy Technology Development, as long as all other solicitation requirements are met.

57. Is it acceptable to bundle multiple projects that have different objectives under a single proposal, and would it make a difference if they are somewhat related?

Answer: Each proposal should be for a distinct scope of work. Multiple objectives can be included under a single proposal as long as they are related under a common vision to evaluate the synergies between each objective.

C. Level of Commitment:

58. What level of commitment is needed from project partners for the Application package? For local government agencies, is a resolution required to be submitted with the Application package?

Answer: Letters of commitment should be included for match funding partners, subcontractors, and proposed host sites. Local government agencies should submit a draft resolution with the Application package, and a final signed and approved

resolution must be submitted to the Energy Commission prior to the Energy Commission Business meeting.

59. What sort of documentation is required to demonstrate that an organization is “empowered” to act on behalf of a community? Does a letter of support suffice?

Answer: Applications need to include documentation indicating community interest in the proposed project, such as a letter of support and/or participation.

60. What commitment level is needed from an IOU?

Answer: Demonstration sites must be located in a California electric IOU service territory. Other than that, there is no requirement for a commitment from an IOU, unless it is explicitly listed as a project partner or subcontractor.

61. What specific language is needed in a letter of commitment?

Answer: Letters of support are needed from project partners, subcontractors, match funding contributors, and potential host sites. Letters of interest should include an explanation of the partners’ role in the project, the commitment to achieving the proposed objectives, and a discussion of match funding, if any, that will be contributed and how it is comprised.

62. Is a resolution needed for the initial proposal or can it come later?

Answer: Local government agencies may submit a draft resolution with the Application package. A final signed and approved resolution must be submitted to the Energy Commission prior to approval of the agreement at an Energy Commission Business meeting.

63. Is there sample resolution language in the PON manual?

Answer: Yes, sample resolution language can be found in Attachment 13.

64. Re: utility partner, not prime but they provide some support?

Answer: They can provide some money or can be an interested party or on a board or other involvement.

D. Match Funding:

65. What, if any, are the restrictions for the use of match funding on proposals awarded under this solicitation?

Answer: Refer to page 2 of the PON manual for a description of match funding eligibility and restrictions.

66. Can funding awards already earned from other agencies for the proposed technologies count as "cash in hand" for the subcontractor, and thus, count as matching funds towards the project?

Answer: From page 2 of the PON manual: "Note that unspent funding awards already earned from other agencies for the proposed technologies count as "cash in hand" for the prime contractor and this funding is acceptable as match because it is already in the prime contractor's possession. Under no circumstances will future, contingent awards from other entities count as match funds." Any funds counted as match funding in an Application must be spent within the agreement term - after the Energy Commission business meeting approval date and before the agreement end date. Any funds expended under another agreement cannot be used for match funding under this PON.

Refer to page 2 of the PON manual, under "Match Funding" for additional information related to the timing of the use of these funds.

67. Can a municipal utility contribute match funding if it is not actually receiving any funds from the grant?

Answer: Yes.

68. Is the 25% match only for the PIER portion or for the total agreement amount?

Answer: The 25% match funding requirement should be based on the percentage compared to requested PIER funds. For example, an Application for \$100,000 PIER award would require at least \$25,000 in match funding to be provided by the Applicant.

69. If equipment was donated, can it be counted toward match funding?

Answer: Yes.

70. Do the scoring criteria offer any incentive for match funding greater than 25%?

Answer: Yes, there is a qualitative scoring criterion to incentivize match funding beyond the required 25%, particularly for proposals that are closer to commercialization.

71. Are matching donations in the form of cash favored over "in-kind" donations?

Answer: Match funding in the form of cash is favored over in-kind contributions. Property or laboratory space is not eligible as match funding. If in-kind contributions are proposed in an Application, each must include a reasonable value, justification

for why it is eligible match funding and the value attributed, and will be highly-scrutinized by Energy Commission staff during proposal review. Eligible match funding must not be spent before agreement approval at an Energy Commission business meeting and must be expended before the end of the agreement term.

See the match funding discussion on page 2 of the PON manual for more information.

72. Can PIER funding be used to leverage funding from other programs, for example regional Energy Upgrade California programs?

Answer: Yes, but Energy Commission funding will not be awarded for a duplicate scope of work.

73. Can the contribution of property by a developer or group of property owners on which research is conducted qualify as matching funds?

Answer: Property is not eligible as match funding.

74. In terms of match funding, if equipment is already on-hand or is purchased in full or in part by a project partner prior to the Agreement start date, can this be counted as in-kind match funds?

Answer: Only equipment that is exclusively used for the purposes of the proposal during the project term is eligible to be used as match funding. This can include existing equipment, as long as it is an essential element of the proposed scope of work and will be used to advance science and technology.

E. Equipment Use:

75. What, if any, are the restrictions on the purchase, use and disposition of equipment?

Answer: Refer to pages 18 and 19 of the PON manual for a description of equipment purchase and disposition.

76. With respect to PON-12-502, what will be the terms and conditions regarding non-expendable equipment purchased in whole or in part with California Energy Commission funds? Who will own the equipment? Upon termination or completion of the Agreement, what will be the disposition of this equipment?

Answer: For information on equipment purchase and disposition, refer to "Budget Requirements on pages 18 and 19 of the PON manual.

77. How many applications did the Energy Commission receive in the last round of funding for this type of research?

Answer: More than 50 applications were received for the previous Renewable-Based Energy Secure Communities (RESCO) solicitation, which was released in late 2008.

F. California-Based Entities:

78. Are California K-12 public school districts and California cities and counties considered California-Based Entities (CBEs) in their own right for purposes of this PON?

Answer: The PON manual has been revised to say: “For purposes of this PON, entities eligible to count toward this 60% spending requirement include government entities in California (such as school districts, local government agencies, special districts, and federal institutions located in California). Therefore, CBEs or government entities in California must be included as a Prime Applicant or subcontractor and must receive at least 60% of the PIER funds requested in this solicitation.”

79. Paragraph C on page 6 of the PON manual says that “...non-California business entities conducting intrastate business in California are required to ‘register’ and be in good standing with the California Secretary of State...” The SOS web site is not too helpful and the telephone support even less so. Can you identify the particular form(s) required to register?

Answer: Information on the registration forms, fees, and samples can be found on the California Secretary of State website at:
<http://www.sos.ca.gov/business/be/forms.htm>.

80. When making reference to a budget allocation to CBEs, does this just include labor? In other words, if some of the award is intended to help purchase equipment, would this equipment have to be sourced from California or are materials and equipment taken out of the overall budget when determining CBE allocation?

Answer: The CBE and/or government entity in California budget allocation requirement applies to the overall PIER funding requested, not just labor. Any equipment purchased will be considered in the CBE and California-based spending requirements, as discussed in pages 6-8 of the PON manual.

81. What if local employees don't pass this litmus test for being CBEs? They are living here and employed here, do they count toward CBE?

Answer: Updated CBE and government entities in California requirements are outlined on pages 6-7 of the PON manual.

82. Can the organization submit a proposal that includes a potential CBE that later might turn out not to be involved? Must/can the proposal be withdrawn?

Answer: The application may not include false or misleading information. The applicant may withdraw its application if it cannot ensure that at least 60% of PIER funds are allocated to CBEs and/or government entities in California.

83. What percentage or point increase are we awarded if 100% of funds go to CBEs and 100% of the award is spent in California?

Answer: California-based spending will be considered in proposal evaluation according to the sliding scale included in the technical scoring criteria on page 24 of the PON manual.

84. Does a local government agency or local non-profit qualify as a CBE? Or is CBE designation exclusive to contractors and consultants that provide the professional services to local governments?

Answer: Although local government agencies and non-profits do not qualify as CBEs, those entities are eligible to count toward the 60% spending requirement, as long as they are located in California. Refer to the answer to question 78. Also, see pages 6-8 of the PON manual for more information on the CBE and California-based spending requirements.

G. California-Based Spending:

85. In the technical scoring criteria, California-based spending accounts for a total of 15 points, but the scoring scale only goes up to 10 points. Why is this total different?

Answer: The scoring scale has been updated to reflect the total of 15 points. Refer to page 24 of the PON Manual.

86. Is it required that at least 60% of PIER funding be spent in California?

Answer: Yes.

87. If we are proposing to purchase a technology from outside California, but it will be used in-state, how will this factor into the California-based spending requirement?

Answer: Equipment purchased out-of-state will not count towards the California-based spending requirement.

88. Is California manufacturing of equipment not required?

Answer: Manufacturing of equipment in California is not required.

89. The solicitation specifies that at least 60% of PIER funds must be spent by CBEs and be spent in California. Are these criteria the same? If not, please clearly define each and elaborate on the distinction between funds spent by a CBE and funds spent in California.

Answer: The CBE and/or government entities in California requirement and spending in California requirement are two separate but related requirements. Refer to pages 6 and 7 of the PON manual for more information.

H. IOUs and POUs:

90. Can you please clarify the Energy Commission definition of a “publicly-owned utility (POU)” since it also states that local governments and municipal facilities are eligible? Specifically, the City of Burbank provides water and power services for the city and would be interested in funding to explore energy storage to secure the power generation facility.

Answer: This PON specifically excludes an electric POU from receiving funding. Please refer to the answer to question 9 for more information.

91. How would the Energy Commission classify the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD)? How would the Energy Commission classify Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E)? Per CEC definition in PON-12-502, is SMUD considered privately-owned or publicly-owned?

Answer: This solicitation has been revised to delete the term “privately-owned utilities”. SMUD is considered a POU, while PG&E considered an IOU.

92. Does “IOU” in this context apply to gas utility IOUs or only to electric?

Answer: For purposes of this solicitation, IOUs refer to only electric Investor-Owned Utilities.

93. If the prime is located in POU territory, does that disqualify them from receiving funding?

Answer: No, as long as demonstration sites are located in IOU territory and all other solicitation requirements are met.

94. Will projects be considered that are just outside California IOU territory but that have the potential to interconnect into a location which is inside a CA utility service boundary?

Answer: No.

I. Budget:

95. On the attached budget forms (Attachment 7 from PON-12-502), some fields are password protected. Can you please advise?

Answer: Some fields are protected for the use of Energy Commission staff only. If a field does not allow you to enter information, then that information is not required to be filled out by the applicant. Certain protected fields in the budget forms needing minor corrections, such as additional column width, have been updated.

96. Is there a template that you can share to submit the cost proposal?

Answer: Please use the budget forms provided with the PON Manual, Attachment 7.

97. What is the administrative cost threshold for this grant per individual? Per organization?

Answer: There is no explicit limit on the administrative overhead levels that may be included in each proposal. However, proposals will be scored based on the total indirect overhead for the entire requested award. Proposals with the lowest indirect overhead will receive the highest scores in that category, and will be more likely to receive funding.

98. Can you please include attachment "F" as indicated on page 23 of the solicitation document?

Answer: Staff apologizes for the reference to attachment F. The actual budget document in reference is Attachment 7. The PON manual has been updated to reflect this.

99. Can funds be used to directly subsidize costs for enabling improvements, such as attic insulation?

Answer: Awards made under this solicitation are not intended to directly subsidize improvement costs. Proposals should advance the state-of-the-art for renewable energy integration and will be scored according to their potential to do so.

100. Can you please clarify whether PIER funds for Community Scale RE Development may be used for administration fees and financial incentives in the form of buy downs (e.g., offsetting interest rates)? If you can point me to a link that lays out allowable uses of funding, that would help.

Answer: PIER funding is not eligible to be used for financial incentives or program administration fees related to this type of effort. PIER funding is meant to be

awarded to applications that advanced science and technology to enable increased levels of renewable electricity generation in California's communities.

101. Is there more information to clarify the prevailing wage requirements?

Answer: Prevailing wage applies to all work performed in California. More information about the prevailing wage requirements can be found in Attachments 4, 5, and 6 of this PON.

102. How should the Applicant identify personnel that aren't specified by name yet?

Answer: Applications should at least identify specific classification titles, direct labor rates, benefit rates, and indirect overhead for all positions that will be billed during the proposed agreement term. Only key individuals that are essential to project success should be identified by name in the Application.

J. Workshop:

103. Is a list of attendees of the Pre-Application workshops available?

Answer: A list of the workshop attendees is posted to the Energy Commission's website at: <http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/pier.html#PON-12-502>.

104. PG&E is expecting to get a fair amount of interest in this, and we may be invited to participate as a project partner. How do we publicize our availability? Our contact is Gina Blus at gina.blus@PGE.com.

Answer: Your contact information will be posted with the questions and answers document.

105. Please find below the statement I would like posted to the meeting notes, describing our "PV Implementation Accelerator":

NREL has received funding through DOE's Sunshot initiative to provide measurement & verification services to demonstrations of emerging solar electric technologies. We'll collect data for a period of time to characterize performance and we'll then write up a case study/report. These reports will provide information that investors can use when evaluating a new technology. Enabling technologies, that support adding distributed PV to the grid, will also be considered. To assess the business health of selected firms, the project team will look to NREL's Industry Growth Forum team for assistance.

Chuck Kurnik

Deployment & Market Transformation
National Renewable Energy Laboratory
chuck.kurnik@nrel.gov

K. Miscellaneous:

106. Is PON-12-503 split from PON-12-502? What are the differences between the two funding opportunities? Where workshops also be held for PON-12-503?

Answer: PON-12-502 and PON-12-503 are two separate funding opportunities. PON-12-503 is focused primarily on enabling energy efficiency, while the focus of PON-12-502 is on enabling renewable electricity generation. More information about PON-12-503, including workshop dates and times, can be found on the Energy Commission website at:
<http://www.energy.ca.gov/contracts/pier.html#PON-12-503>.

107. Considering the innovative nature and the extensive collaboration among multiple team members, we feel that deadline of November 30th is too soon. Given the matching funding requirements, site identification and partnership arrangements; is it possible to extend the deadline by another 15 days?

Answer: The deadline has been extended to Wednesday, December 12th, as shown in the PON addendum 2.

108. What are the CEQA requirements?

Answer: CEQA information can be found in Attachment 9 of the PON manual.

109. Can you offer a better sense of “commercialization”?

Answer: The technology has been shown to be economically competitive at full scale production, meets all relevant standards and certifications, and is appropriate for reliable operation.

110. Is a list of past projects needed for applicant only or for each team member?

Answer: An explanation of past projects should be included only for the lead Applicant and key project personnel.

111. What information is needed on the submittal of Client Reference? Where can I find a information in the PON?

Answer: The client references should be provided to support the following questions in the scoring criteria:

How will the proposed project leverage results from previous related work? (Scoring Criteria 1)

Does the proposal include an explanation of past and current work related to the proposal that has been performed by the project team, including successes and failures? (Scoring Criteria 4)

Reminder: Submit Applications to the Energy Commission by 3 p.m. on the due date, not 4 p.m. as was required in previous funding opportunities. Failure to comply with this requirement will result in the rejection of your proposal.